

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR INFORMATION

Applicant's responses corresponding to the numbered paragraphs on pages 2-5 of the Office Action are as follows:

1. No. In Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-309841 filed on October 24, 2002, no rejection has been made by the Japanese Patent Office.
2. Yes. A translation of the claims allowed by the Japanese Patent Office in Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-309841 filed on October 24, 2002 are being submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement being filed concurrently herewith.
3. Chinese Patent Application No. 200310101899.8 (corresponding to Publication No. 1496714 and Patent No. 1259890) claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-309841. In addition, the divisional application of the present application, Application Serial No. 11/623,565, claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-309841. No application filed in a country other than the United States and China claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-309841.
4. Yes. In Chinese Patent Application No. 200310101899.8, a rejection was issued on August 19, 2005. Copies of the rejection, and an English translation thereof, are being submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement being filed concurrently herewith. In addition, in U.S. Application Serial No. 11/623,565, a rejection was issued on August 2, 2007. A copy of that rejection was submitted in the September 10, 2007 Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application.
5. Yes. Chinese Patent Application No. 200310101899.8 has been allowed. An English translation of the allowed claims are being submitted in the Information

Disclosure Statement being filed concurrently herewith.

6. No. No rejection has been issued in Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-134022 filed on May 13, 2003.

7. No. No claims have yet been allowed in Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-134022 filed on May 2003.

8. Chinese Patent Application No. 200310101899.8 (corresponding to Publication No. 1496714 and Patent No. 1259890) claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-134022. In addition, the divisional application of the present application, Application Serial No. 11/623,565, claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-134022. No application filed in a country other than the United States and China claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-134022.

9. Yes. In Chinese Patent Application No. 200310101899.8, a rejection was issued on August 19, 2005. Copies of the rejection, and an English translation thereof, are being submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement being filed concurrently herewith. In addition, in U.S. Application Serial No. 11/623,565, a rejection was issued on August 2, 2007. A copy of that rejection was submitted in the September 10, 2007 Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application.

10. Yes. Chinese Patent Application No. 200310101899.8 has been allowed. An English translation of the allowed claims are being submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement being filed concurrently herewith.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 24, 2007. Claims 13-15, 17, 20-22, 24 and 28 are presented for examination, of which Claims 13, 20 and 28 are in independent form. Claim 27 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 13, 20 and 28 have been amended as to matters of form. No change in scope is either intended or believed effected by these changes. Favorable reconsideration is requested. The canceled claim will not be further addressed herein.

An Information Disclosure Statement and a corresponding Form PTO-1449 was filed on September 10, 2007. However, in the copy of that Information Disclosure Statement attached to the Office Action, one entry has not been initialed by the Examiner to indicate consideration by the Examiner. In particular, the Office Action dated August 2, 2007 issued in the divisional application of the present application has not been initialed. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to return an initialed copy of the Information Disclosure Statement, indicating that all of the information cited therein was considered.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently herewith in response to the Requirement for Information set forth in the Office Action.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that Claims 13-15, 17, 20-22 and 24 would be allowable if amended to overcome the objections set forth in the Office Action. In keeping with this indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended each of the objected-to claims as suggested in the Office Action as discussed below, and consequently these claims are seen to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 13, 20 and 28 were objected to based on the informality that the term

"computing a difference image" should read --computing the difference image--. Applicant has carefully reviewed and amended Claims 13, 20 and 28 as suggested in the Office Action. It is believed that the objection to these claims has been obviated and its withdrawal is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 on the ground that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Applicant has amended Claim 28 as suggested in the Office Action. It is believed that the rejection of this claim has been obviated and its withdrawal is, therefore, respectfully requested.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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